Page 4, line 9, change "Synchronisation" to -- Synchronization --;

lines 10 and 16, change "synchronising" to -- synchronizing --.

Page 8, line 1, change "synchronising" to -- synchronizing --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-34, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 35. A communications system, comprising:

a common device;

a plurality of higher layer devices;

a bus for communicating data traffic comprising data in asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) form and data in adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) form between the common device and the higher layer devices, the bus including lines for carrying data and control signals; and

the devices including discrimination means for discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

36. The communications system of claim 35, in which the data in AAL2 form includes an AAL2 mini-cell associated with a means of identification of at least one of a source and a destination of the mini-cell.

37. The communications system of claim 36, in which the means of identification includes an ATM header.

38. The communications system of claim 37, in which the data in AAL2 form is associated with an ATM virtual path (VP) and an ATM virtual channel (VC), in which the ATM header comprises a virtual path identifier (VPI) field and a virtual channel identifier (VCI) field; and the VPI and VCI fields being used for determining the associated VP and VC, respectively.

39. The communications system of claim 36, in which the means of identification includes a pulse code modulation (PCM) circuit identifier.

40. The communications system of claim 36, in which the means of identification includes an identity of a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) virtual container.

41. The communications system of claim 35, in which the common device includes an ATM physical layer (PHY), and in which the plurality of higher layer devices includes an ATM layer and an AAL2 layer.

42. The communications system of claim 35, in which the discrimination means includes means for using a control signal from the bus for discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

43. The communications system of claim 42, in which the control signal is a start of cell (SOC) signal.

44. The communications system of claim 43, in which the discrimination means includes means to discriminate between the two forms of the data traffic depending on a number of clock cycles that the SOC signal is active.

45. The communications system of claim 42, in which the control signal is an additional signal.

46. The communications system of claim 35, in which the discrimination means includes means for using a field of the data traffic for discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

47. The communications system of claim 46, in which the data traffic includes a user defined field (UDF) in which the field used for discriminating is the UDF.

48. The communications system of claim 46, in which the data in AAL2 form includes an AAL2 mini-cell, in which the data in ATM form includes an ATM cell, and in which the field used for discriminating includes a fifth octet of the cells.

49. The communications system of claim 48, in which the fifth octet of the AAL2 mini-cell includes a channel identification (CID) field.

50. The communications system of claim 35, in which the bus includes lines for carrying address signals for selecting a device from the plurality of the higher layer devices.

51. The communications system of claim 35; and further comprising additional common devices, and in which the bus includes lines for carrying address signals for selecting a device from the common devices.

52. A method of communicating data traffic comprising data in asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) form and data in adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) form via a bus between a common device and a plurality of higher layer devices, the bus including

lines for carrying data and control signals, the method comprising the step of: discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

53. The method of claim 52, in which the data in AAL2 form includes an AAL2 mini-cell associated with a step of identification of at least one of a source and a destination of the mini-cell.

54. The method of claim 53, in which the step of identification includes an ATM header.

55. The method of claim 54, in which the data in AAL2 form is associated with an ATM virtual path (VP) and an ATM virtual channel (VC), in which the ATM header comprises a virtual path identifier (VPI) field and a virtual channel identifier (VCI) field; and the VPI and VCI fields being used for determining the associated VP and VC, respectively.

56. The method of claim 53, in which the step of identification includes a pulse code modulation (PCM) circuit identifier.

57. The method of claim 53, in which the step of identification includes an identity of a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) virtual container.

58. The method of claim 52, in which the common device includes an ATM physical layer (PHY), and in which the plurality of higher layer devices includes an ATM layer and an AAL2 layer.

59. The method of claim 52, in which the discrimination step includes the step of using a control signal from the bus for discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

60. The method of claim 59, in which the control signal is a start of cell (SOC) signal.

61. The method of claim 60; and further comprising the step of monitoring the SOC signal, and in which the discrimination step is performed by discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic depending on a number of clock cycles that the SOC signal is active.

62. The method of claim 59, in which the control signal is an additional signal.

63. The method of claim 52, in which the discrimination step is performed by using a field of the data traffic for discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

64. The method of claim 63, in which the data traffic includes a user defined field (UDF) in which the field used for discriminating is the UDF.

65. The method of claim 63, in which the data in AAL2 form includes an AAL2 mini-cell, in which the data in ATM form includes an ATM cell, and in which the field used for discriminating includes a fifth octet of the cells.

66. The method of claim 65, in which the fifth octet of the AAL2 mini-cell includes a channel identification (CID) field.

67. The method of claim 52, in which the bus includes lines for carrying address signals for selecting a device from the plurality of the higher layer devices.

68. The method of claim 52; and further comprising additional common devices, and in which the bus includes lines for carrying address signals for selecting a device from the common devices.

69. The method of claim 63, in which the field used for discriminating is one of a virtual channel identifier (VCI) field and a virtual path identifier (VPI) field.

70. The method of claim 63, in which the data traffic includes a pulse code modulation (PCM) field, and in which the field used for discriminating is the PCM field.

71. A method of communicating data traffic comprising data in asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) form and data in adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) form via a bus between a plurality of common devices and a plurality of higher layer devices, the bus including lines for carrying data, control and address signals, the address signals being used for selecting one of the devices, the method comprising the step of: discriminating between the two forms of the data traffic.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 16, change the heading to read as follows:

-- ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE --;

lines 4-5, change "comprise discrimination means for discriminating" to -- discriminate --;

line 6, delete "a means of".